

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 5 and 11 through 21 have been previously withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 6 through 10 and 25 have been cancelled. Claim 31 has been added. Claims 22 through 24 and 26 through 31 remain pending in the present application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 22, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent No. DE 4109385 A1 to Kiefel. The Examiner alleges this reference discloses Applicant's invention.

Claim 22 has been amended to further define that the main cooling ring includes annular nozzles which are arranged in two different planes. The nozzles are fixed in section or can be adjusted to a fixed section. The Kiefel reference cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest such a feature. Nowhere does Kiefel disclose a main cooling ring with annular nozzles that are arranged in two planes. Kiefel only discloses, in the main ring 20, a single nozzle. Kiefel shows an additional cooling ring which has an additional single nozzle. Thus, Kiefel fails to disclose or suggest a main cooling ring having nozzles arranged in two different planes.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejects Claims 22 through 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103 alleging the claims to be unpatentable over Kiefel in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,281,375 to Konermann and admitted prior art. As mentioned above, the Kiefel reference fails to disclose or suggest the main ring having nozzles ejecting in two planes. The addition of Konermann also illustrates a single plane ejection of air from the main nozzle. Thus,

both references fail to disclose or suggest nozzles ejecting air in two different planes. Applicant's admission fails to shed any light on such a feature. Thus, the references cited by the Examiner fail to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention.

Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 22, as well as Claims 23, 24, 26 through 30 which depend from Claim 22, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

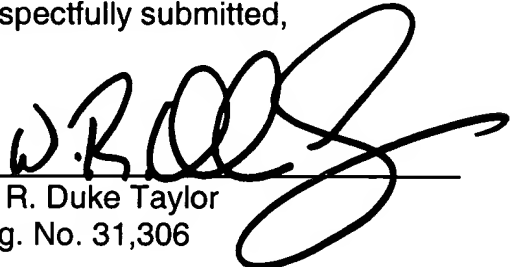
New Claim 31 defines a second cooling ring arranged for supplying separate additional cooling gas streams inside a film tube. The references cited by the Examiner, fail to disclose or suggest such features. Accordingly, Applicant believes new Claim 31 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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